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Mexican Savages.
The Hague War Regulations as to the treatment of prisoners of war state the practice of civilized nations:

"Prisoners of war are in the power of the hostile Government, but not in that of the individuals or corps who captured them. They must be humanely treated. All their personal belongings, except arms, horses and military papers, remain their personal property."

The Federal and the so-called Constitutional forces have a simpler rule. Death, with sometimes the privilege of digging their own graves, is the law of the vanquished. Often a private soldier of the conqueror on any field or after any siege gives the quiescent to a squad of prisoners. A "victory" is followed relentlessly by the murder of the soldiers of the other side who cannot make their escape. There are no laws of war in the Mexican campaign. Santo Domingo or Hayti in its worst days of savage massacre was not bloodier or more brutal than these "patriots" to the south.

Other diversions worthy of old Dahomey, violence to women, slaughter of noncombatants, torture, mutilation, are reported in sickening numbers, especially in that part of Mexico that enjoys the virtuous activity of Carranza, the benevolent old gentleman who proposes to execute everybody who adheres to his rival Huerta. Only disgust and horror can accompany the "victories" of these bloodthirsty banditti. The civilization of the twentieth century is ashamed before this revival of the cruellest barbarities and butcheries of wars of extermination. How long will the civilized world stand for these monstrous inhumanities?

Put Him Out.

Why should Mayor KLINE wait "until next week" before filling the place of Park Commissioner STOVER? Mr. STOVER put on his hat and disappeared on October 9. Why should he be treated as a naughty but amiable child who will be allowed to come back to the school after a few more days of truancy? His term ends on December 31, anyway. True, his absence is his best service as a Park Commissioner. He has the most grotesque notions of what parks are for. They have needed protection against his busybody ignorance ever since he took office. The sooner he is put out the better for the parks. No doubt he has all the private virtues, but he has deserted a post he was never fit for. Put him out!

Two Statutes.

The Supreme Court of New Jersey has done a valuable public service in declaring unconstitutional the State statute of 1911 "for the sterilization of feeble minded (including idiots, imbeciles and morons), epileptics, rapists, certain criminals and other defectives." Founded on the importance of heredity, the act put it into the hands of a board consisting of a surgeon, a neurologist and the State Commissioner of Charities and Correction, except in the case of criminals convicted of rape, to decide, in conjunction with the chief physician of the institution in which the defectives are confined, to whom of the inmates the penalty shall be applied.

Considering how almost ludicrously contradictory "expert opinion" is, this enactment of a theory whose working out would be practically left to a surgeon and a neurologist was extraordinary. However excellent the intentions of the Legislature and of the judges who try to be wiser than Nature, the power conferred by the act was evidently dangerous. How far, unchecked, would this experimental disposition of a humanitarian majority go?

How many citizens of New York know that on April 10, 1912, the statute book of this State was enriched with substantially the same measure; that New York has a board of examiners, consisting of a surgeon, a neurologist and a practitioner of medicine, who get \$10 a day and necessary travelling expenses while on duty, their duty being this:

"To examine into the mental and physical condition and the record and the family history of the feeble minded, epileptic, criminal and other defective inmates confined in the several State hospitals for the insane, State prisons, reformatories and charitable and penal institutions in the State, and if in the opinion of said board, or of any such person, such person would produce children with an inherited tendency to crime, insanity, feeble mindedness, idiocy or imbecility, and there is no probability that the condition of any such person so examined will improve to such an extent as to render procreation by any such person advisable, or if the physical or mental condition of any such

person will be substantially improved thereby, then said board shall appoint one of its members to perform such operation for the prevention of procreation as shall be decided by said board to be most effective."

The "Judgment," the infallible "Judgment" of two experts! We commend this statute to the consideration of citizens who are not aware of the robust march of "progress."

The Sacred Mail Schedules.

In opposition to a plan for the promotion of safety in the streets, the Second Assistant Postmaster-General, JOSEPH STEWART, protests in this fashion against the proposed withdrawal of special privileges from the United States automobile mail vans:

"Our schedules are based on the closing time of the mails, with a reasonable running time between the offices and the railroad terminals."

"It will be impossible to maintain these schedules if mail wagons are subjected to the speed limits applying to ordinary traffic."

Before the motor vans were put in operation the mail schedules were satisfactorily maintained, and nobody complained of the service except when it became notoriously inefficient.

Since they have been employed they have been run as recklessly while light as when loaded with mail matter.

What has happened since the substitution of mechanical for horse power to make necessary reckless driving, violation of the rules of the road and a general contempt for public safety on the part of contractors in the employ of the United States Government?

Certain Conflicting Ambitions.

There is no cause for alarm in the reported ambition of the State authorities to outdo the District Attorney of New York county in the hunt for corruptionists that is now engaging public attention and, if report is founded on fact, causing certain eminent citizens to wish that the prisons of the State were more comfortable.

In the present state of popular suspicion the possibility that the conflicting aspirations of the various officers involved will result in covering up the essential facts is so remote that it may be disregarded.

When the inquiry is ended and the results are known honest men will have no doubt to whom the rewards should go. At present they are not concerned over the distribution of credit marks. They want to know where and of how much consequence is the fire that has produced so much smoke.

Reserve Requirements in the Currency Bill.

The currency bill passed by the House of Representatives, which has formed the basis of the labors of the Senate committee, is in several respects materially defective on the banking side. One defect, which weakens substantially what President Wilson has called the bony structure of the bill, is its anomalous provision for the reserves of member banks in the regional reserve association.

Now the regional bank plan, adopted by the Administration for the vertebral column of the new banking system, is an attempt to adapt central bank ideas to American geography and politics. It is a scheme of centralized banking which recognizes the central bank principle of mobilizing reserves for their more effective employment, but there is a scientific incompatibility between centralized banking reserves and statutory reserve requirements imposed on all banks.

In central banking countries, from which legislative endeavor at Washington is seeking to borrow experience and adapt it to American needs and customs, it is not on law but on sound practice that the maintenance of adequate reserves depends. The ultimate reserves are held by the central banks and are kept at a high ratio of proportion to central bank liabilities. For the rest, the banks of any given country count as practically their whole reserve whatever balances they have in the central bank and keep cash on hand only to such an amount as experience teaches to be necessary. Centralized banking works away from and not toward the statutory reserve idea.

An absurdity in the House currency bill is its retention of the central reserve city, reserve city and country bank classification. One of the purposes of the new legislation is to end the redepositing of reserves which has been held to account for many evils, real or imaginary. When banks are not to be allowed to deposit any part of their reserves outside the regional banks no useful purpose is served in retaining the reserve classification. The point is worth making because it leads to the further conclusion that there is no valid reason for imposing varying reserve requirements on member banks in the association.

There is not a convincing argument which can be advanced, for example, in behalf of compelling the banks in the present central reserve cities to hold 18 per cent. reserves against deposits while the present country banks will be obliged to have only 12 per cent. reserves. Ideal legislation would merely embody sound banking tradition in exacting large reserves of the regional central banks, while the system of independent banking reserves which has been a bane, scientifically speaking, would not receive the recognition of any statutory requirement at all.

In shifting from one system to another allowance must probably be made for the conditions resulting from decades of legal reserve restrictions enforced on all national banks. At the same time it would be sensible, in making the transition, to bring the new system more into accord with the principle of centralized banking and raise the reserve requirements for the regional banks above the ratio of 33-1-3 per cent. proposed in the House bill

while lowering the minimum prescribed for member banks. Yet if 12 per cent. is regarded as enough reserve for the present country banks, there is absolutely no sense in compelling the banks of Chicago, St. Louis and New York, the present central reserve cities, to hold larger percentages.

Regard for every principle of sound banking looks less to the cash reserves of a bank which does not hold the reserves of other banks than to the liquid character of its other resources, chiefly its portfolio of commercial bills. There would be good hard sense in making the reserve requirements lighter for the banks of Chicago, St. Louis and New York and for the banks in other large cities than for the banks elsewhere situated. Granted able management, the banks in the larger cities will be invariably found to have the most liquid assets, the paper and securities most readily convertible into forms of cash at need. To oblige the banks in New York, St. Louis and Chicago to hold larger reserves than are required of other banks will be to place them at an unmerited disadvantage which will to the same extent lessen their facilities for accommodating the commerce of the country, although the better accommodation of the country's commerce is one of the principal objects of the new legislation.

This subject has not been at all sufficiently developed in the examination to which the House bill has been subjected either at Washington or throughout the country. Unless the anomalies of reserve requirements in the proposed centralized banking system are made less striking the smooth and satisfactory operation of the new system will be seriously hampered. The attention which the Senate committee is this week giving to the reserve provisions is belated but promising.

Toledo Falls.

To the tenacity of its job holders, the complications of a bitter religious controversy, the failure of its city officials to enroll it at the head of the list of towns enjoying the blessings of another frame of government, to racial jealousy; to any and all of these the downfall of Toledo, Ohio, from the virtuous heights of a city enjoying "independent" administration to the machine rule of Republicans may be attributed. Half a generation ago Golden Rule Jones lifted it from partisanship and started it on the career which was ended by the elections of this month. It is not a bad record; the tales of most nonpartisan movements are far briefer.

Perhaps Toledo has not actually fallen. It is possible that its nonpartisan ship grew threadbare, and deserved to be cast aside. The Republican rule that succeeds it may not be as black as the uninformed will fear. A house-cleaning once in a while is not altogether unnecessary, even when the rooms are occupied by reformers. Much of the good that Golden Rule Jones and BRAND WHITLOCK were able to do will survive. The city will stay on the map, and when the Republican administration passes the limit of bearable abuse it will be thrown out, just as a nonpartisanism that seems to have lost considerable of its savor has been.

Sport in the Bay State.

Everybody is eating venison in Massachusetts this week, the open season for deer; and there are almost as many sportsmen in the woods as trees. As for the deer, they don't know what to make of the din of exploding cartridges, for they have been lying down in the fields with the cattle, drinking from the same trough and playing with the farmers' children. As a Fourth of July celebration begins the day before the great day in every well regulated community, that is to say in most communities, so the open season for deer in Massachusetts began with the popping of rifles on Sunday, sunrise on Monday being the legal start.

Returns for the first twenty-four hours of slaughter showed that not even the cradle was spared. Thus a bold nimrod of Monson shot a doe of seventy-five pounds to pieces, but he was hard pressed by a neighbor, who took the life of a female of eighty pounds. A Pittsfield dentist saw a seventy-five pound doe. In Haverbrook a man clubbed to death a deer that had the temerity to run at him—probably to eat out of his hand. Deer with a leg dangling after running through fustulades were sometimes reported. A fair lady of Berkshire killed a doe in the lock of her house; it came to get bread and she gave it buckshot.

There were disputes about the ownership of deer riddled by converging sportsmen. Careless deer were exterminated from automobiles. A man wounded a buck and followed it for miles, only to find that a counsellor had cut off the head for its horns and left the carcass. At last moments the Wilbraham Mountain 500 pound buck that bears a charged life every open season was still at large. The "sport" will be kept up until Saturday night, when the deer and their progeny will be permitted to mingle with the cattle again.

Can it be true that to Protepsomus Pindell, whose far resounding name is to be sent to the Senate to-day, had been offered in vain a collectorship of internal revenue and a postmastership before it was resolved in the councils of arcane wisdom to ship him abroad for a season to dazzle the Muscovites?

If true it be, how different is Protepsomus Pindell's fortune from that of that other Democratic patriot who came to the White House to ask ANDREW JACKSON to make him Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of St. James's, but was persuaded to go away, proud and happy, with a pair of Old Hickory's old breeches.

The shade of PLATO smiles proudly on the Hon. WILLIAM BARNES, the other

most illustrious disciple of Old Snob-nose Socrates. Yet isn't there a quizzical twinkle in PLATO's eyes? He can't help noticing how reluctant and unsocratic is WILLIAM HO ALBANOS about taking the figurative hemlock.

MR. FRANK P. GLASS, the Birmingham editor who has received an appointment of United States Senator from Alabama, may not be able to get into the club, but to the end of his days neighbors will call him Senator. All civic and military titles that the language of compliment can tag a man with are good for life in the South.

The paying of taxes has hitherto been regarded as a patriotic privilege.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

Has It?

A good many patriots are willing to leave that privilege to somebody else.

So much is heard nowadays of the physical degeneration of the English people that the uncanny "grit" shown by the British army officers at the Horse Show seems like a useful find of that much abused country they would find that things are not half so black as they are painted. They would find that Russia is not less civilized than the United States, and that there is no brutality over there than in this country; that people live in very much the same way there as in the States, and that the difference between the Russian and American life and character between the life and character of Russia and her European neighbors.

A RUSSIAN WOMAN.

PITTSBURGH, November 19.

With all its faults New York has a good deal of the Kansas City spirit.—Kansas City Journal.

Like all modest folk we dislike to be praised to our face.

More than 1,000 women pleaded with the aviator CHEVILLARD at Buc on Tuesday to be allowed to loop the loop when he performed that daring feat in his monoplane. Probably no woman would venture to try the trick herself; but to be by a man's side when he does it, and to trust in his skill and courage, that is another thing. It is a theme for psychologists and the "militants."

ON THE OMNIBUS STEP.

A Joy Rider of the Golden Time Always Preferred the Rear of the Stage.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—The story of Mr. James P. Norton in THE SUN brings me remembrances of happy experiences of early New York days when Broadway was paved with cobblestones and the great red "stage" cars, as they were called, instead of in cars. In those days I lived in my father's home near Bleeker street east of Broadway, and often, on the summer and autumn evenings, after a school dinner, I would go to the Mercantile Library in Astor place to get a new book or do some reading. For I was an omnivorous reader, and my favorite method of getting there was to take a seat on the bottom step at the rear of a stage car, and have a ride to Astor place.

Broadway was not crowded in the evenings then, because the locality was pretty quiet, and many people, who were then, the stages were not crowded, the drivers were good natured, and the rides on the omnibus step were very enjoyable ones, more so I think than any I have taken since.

New York in those days was a much dirtier city than it is now, and the methods of selling milk, collecting garbage, paying and cleaning streets, removing snow, etc., were vastly inferior to what they are to-day, but the actors and the plays were much better.

GEORGE WALKER.

NEW YORK, November 19.

The Park Board.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Having had a fairly intimate knowledge of the actions of the Park Board for the last few years, I think I am in a position to say that there has never been a time in the history of the board when there existed such harmonious among its members as during the last four years.

It has been stated that there was friction in the Park Board, which might have accounted for Mr. Stover's absence. To anybody with the slightest knowledge of the facts the reason is utterly ridiculous. He was always treated with exceptional courtesy and politeness by his associates up to and including the last day of his appearance at a board meeting. Better reasons for his disappearance must be found than this.

Another matter upon which the public at large and even many newspapers appear to be misinformed is that the Commissioner of the Parks Board necessarily carries the presidency of the board with it. Reference to the Charter will show that the Mayor is required to designate specifically which of the Commissioners is to act in the capacity of president, and that designation at any time is strictly official as he desires. Therefore the designation of Commissioner Kennedy as president in the absence of the former president makes no sense at all.

Another Experience of Inaccessibility. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—You ask why should not Mr. Vanderbilt speak directly against the three or four of our countrymen who are so utterly and so officiously. For the same reason that the delegate of the Hawaiian sugar interests, who had travelled six thousand miles to present his case to the consideration, did not succeed in presenting it.

He was refused an audience by Mr. Wilson: "I have heard all I care to hear on the sugar question."

Government men are running the show. Government men have their day, thanks to Mr. Roosevelt. P. E. BROOKLYN, November 19.

The Automobile's Side.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Mr. "Fairplay" is right. The driver of any horse, automobile or street car, or even a bicycle, can kill a fool every two minutes in New York without half trying. NEW YORK, November 19.

A RUSSIAN WOMAN PROTESTS.

American Opinion of Her Country Largely Based Upon Misrepresentation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: I have been noticing for some time the charges made against the country by the American press on account of the Bellis trial, which, after all, was brought to a happy issue. It seems to me that the high impartiality of the jury engaged and of the Russian people in general, as the case was certainly very complicated and not easy to disentangle. As to the long imprisonment, we all know that the wheels of justice move slowly. Let me remind you of the recent trial of Mrs. Eaton, who was, as I believe, arrested in Alaska and brought to trial in October, on a far less difficult charge.

Now let me ask why it is Russia is assailed so vehemently and nobody defends her? It is simply because in this country very few people know anything about Russia except what is sensational and misleading. I am sure if the American people took the trouble to learn more of that much abused country they would find that things are not half so black as they are painted. They would find that Russia is not less civilized than the United States, and that there is no brutality over there than in this country; that people live in very much the same way there as in the States, and that the difference between the Russian and American life and character between the life and character of Russia and her European neighbors.

We in Russia are eager to learn all we can about the States and the American people. We hold them in high esteem; we give them our due. Don't you think it would be right to reciprocate in some measure, at least, and of learn more of Russia really is instead of going by what she is represented to be?

A RUSSIAN WOMAN.

PITTSBURGH, November 19.

A Letter Attributed to the Provisional President of Mexico.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: I wrote several weeks ago to the President of Mexico, asking him to protect American investments in Mexico generally, so as to remove any practical reason for our intervention. Senor Huerta, in the intervals between notes to Lind, Carden, O'Shaughnessy and others, has been found time to smile grimly over my modest request and to intimate with Latin politeness that pots should not call kettles black. I enclose his answer.

NEW YORK, November 19. ROBERT P. GREEN.

PALACIO NACIONAL, Ciudad de Mexico, November 3, 1913.

MR. QUERENO SENOR: I have received your kind letter concerning the investigation of your American friends in my country. I will do what I can to oblige. But tell me, Senor Green, why does your excellent Senor President go so far away from the heart of the American investigation? He has not, perhaps, enough to do in his own most magnificent country?

I have read in your own newspaper which comes to my capital that many people make more war on business in your country and your Senor President stop them not at all. Even the Honorable Senor his own Administration is making a rough estimate of the land made showing that the irrigation area and the dry farming area are as 5 to 95, the semi-arid section greatly preponderating.

The old rule holds also with irrigation. It is never the fault of a good thing that it is abused, but the abuse of it. So when the irrigator learns how to use less, or less water on his lands, preventing soil erosion, he will be able to grow more or less below root influence, and combines dry farming cultivation, he'll approach nearer to nature's way of doing things, and while the crop may not be so near it is business.

DEF. LABOR.

A Jersey Oculist Registers Some Vital Figures.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: The editorial "Eyes Are Easy" is interesting and based on actual facts. As the owner of about seventy-five laying hens I am in a position to furnish a few facts as to the cost of raising poultry. No chicks were raised this year, so the entire cost of feeding is charged against the laying hens. The production and cost this year were as follows:

	Produce	Cost
January.....	386	\$9.21
February.....	462	12
March.....	894	25
April.....	1062	32
May.....	819	15
June.....	731	16
July.....	487	10
August.....	414	9
September.....	245	25
October.....	140	35
November to 15th.....	37	1.57
December.....	12	1.57

The average cost of eggs for the year, the balance of November and December being estimated, is 24 cents.

Let no person, however, blather himself that he can put up a newly laid egg at any price anywhere during the months of October and November.

CHARLES D. SHULDHAM.

MAPLEWOOD, N. J., November 19.

Polly Dey and Her Shaw.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: The article "Old Hope Walks Recalled" in THE SUNDAY SUN has a human interest which was not adverted to. Mary Shaw, or Polly Dey, as she was known before her marriage to the late Mr. Shaw, left New York with her husband and family some time before the evacuation in 1783. Her husband, David Shaw, was the son of the Rev. Lachlan Shaw, known as "The Historical Man of Montserrat."

Shaw came to New York in 1759 and engaged in business, his store being opposite the City Market. In due course he married Mary, the daughter of David Shaw, and by her had two sons and two daughters. Lachlan, his eldest son, was drowned; William became a lieutenant in the royal navy; Marion married, first Captain Sir James Ingham, R. N., and second, Admiral the Hon. Sir Alexander Cochrane, sixth son of the eighth Earl of Dundonald; Janet married Wilkes, nephew of the famous John Wilkes, one of whose three daughters married Lord Jeffrey.

David Shaw was treasurer of St. Andrew's Society from 1761 to 1765. NEW YORK, November 19. W. M. M.

Indians and Regulars in Football.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: The Indians may be showing the way, but haven't you noticed that the open game doesn't seem to be at all successful because of the teams which year after year are the really good, well-coached ones; that is Harvard, Yale and Princeton? The records show that in the long run the Indians have never been successful against the three of our country there are freak games, but by and large Houghton, Jones and Hart with a lot of twenty year old students certainly do produce the winners.

HIRAM HOPKINS.

PHILADELPHIA, November 19.

Ask Teacher.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Upon what ground do we justify our dictatorship over Mexican affairs?

NEW YORK, November 19. E. H. JAMES.

A Dirge Altrair.

Out Head correspondence Rockland Courier-Express.

SAVING LIFE AT SEA.

The Part the Automatic Tension Engine Plays in the Work of Rescue.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: I read in THE SUN of the 16th the description of my life line gun, illustrated by Mr. Spencer Miller's marine breeches buoy apparatus, in operation between a rescuing ship and a wreck at sea. I wish to compliment you upon the splendid illustration and in general on the data and description. It is unfortunate, however, that you did not have room to give more of a description of Mr. Miller's patent automatic tension engine, which makes it possible, after a line has been fired, to maintain a cable between the two ships over which the breeches buoy may be operated without the slightest danger of the line snapping.

I believe any layman can realize that two ships at sea, rising and falling, sometimes at the same time and sometimes one ship going up while the other goes down on a wave, make a pretty severe test of any cable. In fact, in any sea at all no cable can stand without the aid of this automatic tension engine, which takes up and pays out the cable whenever the tension in the line is decreased or increased by the movement of the vessel.

This automatic tension engine, like the line firing gun, is in no sense an experiment. It has been adopted by the United States revenue cutter service and is in use by the United States navy for coaling at sea.

It will greatly interest seafaring men to know how the breeches buoy can be operated under actual conditions of a heavy storm. Capt. Inch, I believe, was in command of the cutter when the tension engine was used in the rescue of the schooner, and so stated to one of the naval architects to whom he talked after he arrived in New York.

FRANCIS GRANGER HALL, JR.

DANVILLE, November 19.

TO DAM THE GRAND CANYON.

Would It Mean More Than the Completion of the Panama Canal?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: The article in THE SUN advocating the impounding of the waters of the Colorado River within the confines of the Grand Canyon of Arizona may seem like a pipe dream, but it is not so by any means. There are two kinds of land, as it were, in the great Southwest. Some, more or less, as to soil constituents, but not the same as to location in the sense of being "above" or "below" the ditch. Moisture the land must have, and if the clouds shed their water on the land, the rain will be under ten inches, may be regarded as desert land. If ten to twenty inches of rain prevails during a season, through deep ploughing, surface mulching and other means, the land will produce two years, phenomenal yields are made, even as high as sixty bushels of wheat to the acre in Montana. Our national average is but fifteen bushels.

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